

Attorney's Docket No. 027650-976
Application No. 10/088,680
Page 3

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of producing packages provided with an opening arrangement and of the type which has an emptying hole prepared in the package wall and through which the package is intended to be emptied of its contents, the method comprising the ~~steps of~~ steps of:

coating one side of a web of paper or paperboard with a liquid-tight coating of plastic, and the other side with a foil or coating of metal which serves as oxygen gas barrier and which, by means of a layer of ~~sealing~~ sealing plastic or other suitable adhesive, is bonded to the paper or paperboard web;

~~of making~~ making emptying-preparatory holes in the thus coated paper or paperboard web to form a packaging blank ~~and thereafter reforming the packaging blank provided with the holes into individual packages provided with opening arrangements,~~ wherein the emptying-preparatory holes are made only partly through the coated paper or paperboard web from one side of the web by first cutting or burning incisions in the web along substantially closed lines in correspondence with the size, configuration and placing of each respective emptying hole on ~~the finished packages~~ finished packages through the

Attorney's Docket No. 027650-976
Application No. 10/088,680
Page 4

outer plastic coating and paper or paperboard layer down to, but not through, the subjacent metal foil or metal coating, and thereafter

removing the parts of the packaging blank located inside the incision lines for the formation of the emptying holes which, from the other side of the web, are still closed by the unruptured or intact metal foil or coating; and

reforming the packaging blank provided with the holes into individual packages provided with opening arrangements.

2. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 A method of producing packages provided with an opening arrangement and of the type which has an emptying hole prepared in the package wall and through which the package is intended to be emptied of its contents, the method comprising the steps of:

coating one side of a web of paper or paperboard with a liquid-tight coating of plastic, and the other side with a foil or coating of metal which serves as oxygen gas barrier and which, by means of a layer of sealing plastic or other suitable adhesive, is bonded to the paper or paperboard web;

making emptying-preparatory holes in the thus coated paper or paperboard web to form a packaging blank, wherein the emptying-preparatory holes are made only partly through the coated paper or paperboard web from one side of the web by first cutting or burning incisions in the web along substantially closed lines in correspondence with the size, configuration and placing of each respective emptying hole on finished packages

Attorney's Docket No. 027650-976
Application No. 10/088,680
Page 5

through the outer plastic coating and paper or paperboard layer down to, but not through, the subjacent metal foil or metal coating.

removing the parts of the packaging blank located inside the incision lines for the formation of the emptying holes which, from the other side of the web, are still closed by the unruptured or intact metal foil or coating; and

reforming the packaging blank provided with the holes into individual packages provided with opening arrangements, wherein the parts of the packaging blank located inside the incision lines are sucked or drawn away from the packaging blank with the aid of a vacuum.

3. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 A method of producing packages provided with an opening arrangement and of the type which has an emptying hole prepared in the package wall and through which the package is intended to be emptied of its contents, the method comprising the steps of:

coating one side of a web of paper or paperboard with a liquid-tight coating of plastic, and the other side with a foil or coating of metal which serves as oxygen gas barrier and which, by means of a layer of sealing plastic or other suitable adhesive, is bonded to the paper or paperboard web;

making emptying-preparatory holes in the thus coated paper or paperboard web to form a packaging blank, wherein the emptying-preparatory holes are made only partly through the coated paper or paperboard web from one side of the web by first cutting or burning incisions in the web along substantially closed lines in correspondence with the

Attorney's Docket No. 027650-976
Application No. 10/088,680
Page 6

size, configuration and placing of each respective emptying hole on finished packages through the outer plastic coating and paper or paperboard layer down to, but not through, the subjacent metal foil or metal coating.

removing the parts of the packaging blank located inside the incision lines for the formation of the emptying holes which, from the other side of the web, are still closed by the unruptured or intact metal foil or coating; and

reforming the packaging blank provided with the holes into individual packages provided with opening arrangements, wherein the packaging blank is heated selectively within the regions of the parts defined by the incision lines immediately prior to and/or in connection with these parts being removed from the packaging blank.

4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the selective heating of the packaging blank is realized by inductive heating of the metal foil or coating in the packaging blank.

5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the packaging blank is heated to a temperature at which the layer of sealing plastic or other adhesive wholly or at least partly melts.

6. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the packaging blank is cut by means of laser of adapted wavelength and intensity in order to cut down to, but not through, the metal foil or metal coating of the packaging blank.

Attorney's Docket No. 027650-976
Application No. 10/088,680
Page 7

7. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the packaging blank is provided with separate pull-off opening strips above the partly provided emptying holes, before the packaging blank is reformed into packages.

8. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the produced packages are provided with separate opening arrangements on the outside of the packages in the region of the prepared emptying holes.

9. (Currently amended) A package provided with an opening arrangement and of the type which has an emptying hole prepared in the package wall, through which the package is intended to be emptied of its contents, wherein

the package is produced from a packaging material comprising a layer of paper or paperboard which, on the outside of the package, has a liquid-tight coating of plastic and, on the inside of the package, has a metal foil or coating serving as oxygen gas barrier,

said emptying hole being made only partly through the layer of coated paper or paperboard with incisions in the layer of coated paper or paperboard along substantially closed lines in correspondence with the size, configuration and placing of said emptying hole to form a packaging blank, and with parts of said packaging blank located inside the incision lines being removed from said packaging blank; and

~~and that~~ the emptying hole prepared in the package wall is closed from the inside by the unruptured or intact metal foil or coating in the packaging material.